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self to be used as the tool of a secret society, however laudable its purpose may have been?*

In the main, care seems to have been exercised in editing the selections, but a few typographical errors have slipped in.¹⁰ An index of names would have facilitated the use of the book.

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Business English. By EDWIN HERBERT LEWIS.
Chicago, LaSalle Extension University, 1914.

Business English, as defined by Mr. Lewis, is "such English as is used in mercantile transactions." Since it does not differ notably from the English used in most other transactions, his purpose is to point out, by means of illustrations and exercises drawn from the discussion of business topics, some of the established principles which govern effective expression. The book is deliberately simplified so as to be serviceable in the upper years of high schools as well as in the first year of technical colleges. It adopts a lightness, not to say breeziness, of tone that is obviously designed to relieve the dullness of correspondence-school study.

The qualities of style—interest and clearness, outlines, paragraphs, and connectives are treated somewhat scantily in brief chapters. Then follow chapters on various matters of usage, such as punctuation, the use of the hyphen, grammatical correctness, and on various aspects of diction. An appendix supplies exercises for each chapter.

The book is to be commended for its insistence on mechanical accuracy and on the value of words. A decent respect for usage and an appreciation of the worth and dignity of words are essential to the effective use of English of

any kind. On this account the work would serve well for a review of freshman English by sophomores who need further training in writing. The uniform reliance upon examples rather than upon explanation is another merit.

In the terms, "regular relative clause" and "extra relative clause," instead of the well-established *restrictive* and *non-restrictive* or *explanatory*, there is an unfortunate effort for simplicity. Neither clause is more regular than the other, and there is nothing extra about the second. The volume is unduly large for handling and carrying by students, and is none too clearly printed. A more specific index would seem desirable to make the helpful rules for mechanical details available for reference.

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Die Variation in der altgermanischen Alliterationspoesie (Palaestra XLVIII), von WALTHER PAETZEL. Berlin: Mayer und Müller, 1913.

In 1905 Paetzel published his Berlin dissertation, of which the present work is an amplification and completion. The ever increasing body of literature which deals with the subject of variation has evidently been studied with care by Paetzel, although Behaghel's important work, *Beitr.* 30, 431 ff., seems to have escaped his notice. Paetzel, however, has apparently approached his subject with a more thorough knowledge of past and contemporaneous efforts in the same field than any of his predecessors. Especially valuable is his summary of the various conceptions of the term "variation" as it is understood and defined by other writers. In view of this it is especially disconcerting to find his own definition of variation so different from that of all others that he is discussing a practically new theme under the old familiar name. For the purposes of this article we may divide the various authorities on variation into two groups, first,

* The texts quoted by Allier (pp. 60-62) seem far from conclusive, and later in the book (p. 139) he himself modifies the above-quoted sweeping statement.

¹⁰ Read, page 16, line 5: *son embarquement par le moyen duquel*; 40, 29: *ne vous fait connaitre*; 207, 21: *vous ne fassiez point exception*; 269, 12 and 17: *fétardise*.